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judge's order of August 24, 2010. At the September 10, 2010, hearing, the magistrate judge heard the argument of counsel and then advised that she would issue a separate written order to resolve the dispute. As of this date, the discovery dispute remains outstanding.

It would be error for the court to grant either party's motion for summary judgment "without first having determined the merits of [the] pending discovery motion." Garrett v. City & County of San Francisco, 818 F.2d 1515, 1519 (9th Cir. 1987). As the motion for discovery (#30) has not yet been decided, the court cannot at this time rule on the motions for summary judgment because the magistrate judge's ruling may impact the arguments made for summary judgment. Accordingly, both motions for summary judgment (#31 and #32) are denied without prejudice, to renew within 30 days after the magistrate judge issues her order resolving the dispute. The hearing scheduled for March 8, 2011, is therefore vacated.

Howard DMEKiller

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: This 4th day of February, 2011.